

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A butt joint connector for forming a butt joint between two building sheets, each respectively having a butt joint edge, comprising:

a first plurality of attachment members for attachment to one of the sheets;

a second plurality of attachment members for attachment to the other of the sheets so that the ~~connector spans the edges of the respective sheets~~ first and second attachment members extend transverse to the edges of the sheets and provide connection surface to engage the sheets when the connector is attached to the sheets;

connecting elements for connecting the first and second plurality of attachment members together in spaced apart relationship; and

wherein the first and second plurality of attachment members define a concavity so that when the first and second sheets are connected to the ~~abutment~~ attachment members, the sheets adjacent the edges are pulled towards the attachment members so as to define a recess adjacent the edges so that the recess can be finished with a filler to fill the recess and form the butt joint.

2. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the concavity is an inverted V-shape.

3. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the first and second attachment members comprise a plurality of transverse ribs, each rib having a first arm which forms a respective first attachment member and a second arm which forms a respective second attachment member, the first and second arms being inclined with respect to one another to form the inverted V-shape.

4. (Original) The connector of claim 3 wherein the first and second arms of each rib are arranged in the same plane.

5. (Original) The connector of claim 3 wherein the surfaces of the first arm are in a common first plane and the surfaces of the second arm are in a second common plane inclined with respect to the first plane.

6. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the connecting elements comprise a plurality of longitudinal frame members for connecting the ribs.

7. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein a locator element is provided between the first and second arms at the apex of the inverted V-shape formed by the first and second arms for locating the edges of the sheets.

8. (Currently amended) The connector of claim 1 wherein the connecting elements comprise a plurality of webs between adjacent ribs[[,]]; each web having a first end and a second end connected to [[a]] the respective one of the adjacent ribs, a hinge at the first and second ends for connecting the web to the respective rib, and an intermediate hinge between the first and second ends of each web, so that the connector is moveable between a collapsed position in which the web is folded and the adjacent ribs are side by side and an expanded position in which the ribs take up the spaced apart relationship by expansion of the webs about the hinges.

9. (Currently amended) The connector of claim 8 wherein the ribs comprise a base which defines the inverted V-shape, a pair of side walls extending upwardly from the base and at least one gusset interconnecting the base and the [[side]] said walls.

10. (Original) The connector of claim 8 wherein the hinges are integral hinges.

11. (Original) The connector of claim 8 wherein the connector includes locking elements for locking the connector in the expanded position.

12. (Original) The connector of claim 11 wherein the locking elements are formed on the webs.

13. (Original) The connector of claim 12 wherein the webs comprise a first arm connected to one of the ribs by the hinge at the first end, and a second arm connected to an adjacent rib by a hinge at the second end, the first and second arms being connected together by the intermediate hinge, the first arm having a free end and the second arm being connected to the first arm at the intermediate hinge inwardly of the free end, the free end having a first connector element and the second arm having a second connector element so that when the connector is expanded, the first and second elements engage to lock the web in the expanded position.

14. (Original) The connector according to claim 13 wherein the web includes a strut connected to one of the ribs at one end and to an adjacent rib by a frangible bridge at the other end to thereby space the ribs apart during moulding and in transportation and to hold the ribs in the retracted position, the frangible bridge being broken when the connector is moved to the expanded position and the first arm having a third connector for engaging the strut to facilitate holding of the web in the expanded position.

15. (Currently amended) The connector according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~ wherein the first and second connectors comprise engagable hooks.

16. (Currently amended) A method of forming a butt joint between two sheets of building material having respective edges, the method comprising:

securing a connector, as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, to one of the sheets so the connector extends beyond the edge of that sheet and so the region of the sheet adjacent the edge is pulled towards the first attachment members of the connector;

connecting the sheet to a first framework member;

attaching the other sheet to the second attachment members of the connector so that the edges of the first and second sheet are adjacent one another and the second sheet is also

pulled towards the second attachment member so that the sheets adjacent the edges form a recess; and

connecting the second sheet to a second building framework.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the method further comprises finishing the joint by applying a filler to fill the recess.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the first sheet is connected to the connector prior to connecting the first sheet to the first frame member.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the second sheet is connected to the second frame member before the second sheet is attached to the connector.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of fixing the first and second sheets to the connector comprises screwing the sheets to the connector member.

21. (Currently amended) A building structure comprising:
a first sheet connected to a first frame member;
a second sheet connected to a second frame member, the first and second sheets having edges which are arranged adjacent one another;
a butt joint connector as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 connected to the first and second sheets between the first and second frame members and spanning the edges of the sheets, the first and second sheets being connected to the connector so that the first and second sheets adjacent the edges are pulled towards the connector to form a recess; and
a filler material applied to the recess to finish the butt joint between the first and second sheets.

22. (Original) The building structure of claim 21 wherein the sheets are connected to the connector by screws.

23. (Original) The building structure of claim 21 wherein the structure is part of a ceiling or wall.

24. (Currently amended) A butt joint connector for forming a butt joint between two building sheets, each respectively having a butt joint edge, comprising:

a first plurality of attachment section members for attachment to one of the sheets;

a second plurality of attachment section members for attachment to the other of the sheets so that the connector spans the edges of the respective sheets when the connector is attached to the sheets;

~~a plurality of first connection locations on the first section, the locations being spaced apart in a direction transverse to a plane of the concavity;~~

~~a plurality of second connection locations on the second section and being spaced apart in the transverse direction; and~~

~~connecting means for interconnecting the respective first and second plurality of connection locations~~

connecting elements for connecting first attachment members together and for connecting second attachment members together, so that the first and second attachment members can move, from a collapsed position in which the first attachment members are in side-by-side relationship and the second attachment members are in side-by-side relationship, to an expanded position in which the first attachment members are spaced apart from one another and the second attachment members are spaced apart from one another; and

wherein the first and second plurality of attachment members define a concavity so that when the first and second sheets are connected to the attachment members, the sheets adjacent the edges are pulled towards the attachment members so as to define a recess adjacent the edges so that the recess can be finished with filler to fill the recess and form the butt joint.